

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The data communications system in accordance with claim 39, wherein the first telephone and/or video conference data processing devices ~~device~~ and the ~~interface~~ data conversion device are arranged in a computer.

21. (Previously Presented) The data communications system in accordance with claim 20, wherein the computer is a server.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The data communications system in accordance with claim 39, wherein the second data transmission protocol is an open, standardized protocol.

24. (Previously Presented) The data communications system in accordance with claim 23, wherein the second data transmission protocol is an H.323 or H.225/H.245-based protocol or an SIP-based protocol.

25. (Previously Presented) The data communications system in accordance with claim 39, wherein the first data transmission protocol is a proprietary or generic protocol.

26. (Currently Amended) The data communications system in accordance with claim 39, wherein the first data transmission protocol is a PCM-based protocol ~~PCM-~~ or TDM-based protocol.

27. (Previously Presented) The data communications system in accordance with claim 39, wherein the first and/or the second data transmission protocol is a TCP/IP-based data transmission protocol.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) The data communications system in accordance with claim 39, wherein one or more of the clients are connected to an Intranet data network.

30. (Previously Presented) The data communications system in accordance with claim 29, wherein one or more of the clients are arranged outside the Intranet data network.

31. (Previously Presented) The data communications system in accordance with claim 30, wherein one or more of the clients are connected to a further Intranet data network.

32. (Currently Amended) The data communications system in accordance with claim 29 ~~39~~, wherein the first telephone and/or video conference data processing devices are ~~unit is~~ connected to the Intranet data network.

33-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) The data communications system in accordance with claim 39, wherein a plurality of second ~~an additional~~ telephone and/or video conference data processing devices ~~device~~ supporting the second data transmission protocol is provided, which can be used instead of the first telephone and/or video conference data processing devices. ~~device~~.

36. (Currently Amended) The data communications system in accordance with claim 35, wherein the second ~~additional~~ telephone and/or video conference data processing devices are ~~device is~~ connected to an the Intranet data network, or wherein at least one of the second ~~additional~~ telephone and/or video conference data processing devices are ~~device is~~ arranged outside the Intranet data network and is connected to a further Intranet data network.

37.-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A data communication system, comprising:
a plurality of clients connected by at least one network to a private branch exchange (PBX), wherein a first of the clients communicates with the PBX using a first data transmission

protocol, and a second of the clients communicates with the PBX using a second data transmission protocol, the first data transmission protocol being different than the second data transmission protocol;

a plurality of first telephone and/or video conference data processing devices ~~in a plurality of gateway modules in the PBX supporting the first data transmission protocol; protocol and not supporting the second data transmission protocol;~~

a resource control device ~~in the PBX~~ that selects one of the first telephone and/or data processing devices to execute a teleconference based on a telecommunications load and a gateway resource availability;

a data conversion ~~single gatekeeper module in the PBX comprising an interface device~~ supporting both the first and second data transmission protocols, wherein the data conversion device ~~gatekeeper module~~ converts transmission data between the first and second protocols, and forwards data converted to the first protocol to the selected telephone and/or video conference data processing device, which executes the teleconference among the first and second clients and at least a third one of the clients; and

wherein the resource control device determines when the selected telephone and/or video conference data processing device cannot process a request and causes another of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices to take over the request.

~~wherein clients using the first data transmission protocol and clients using the second data transmission protocol can jointly hold a telephone and/or video conference with each other via the selected the telephone and/or data processing device; and~~

~~wherein all conversions between the first and second protocols are performed in the single gatekeeper for the plurality of gateway modules.~~

40. (Currently Amended) The data communications system in accordance with claim 39, wherein the resource control device is in the PBX and selects from among the first telephone and/or data processing devices in the PBX and from among further first telephone and/or data processing devices in an external network that are is directly or indirectly connected to the PBX to execute the teleconference. ~~teleconference based on a telecommunications load and a resource availability.~~

41. (Currently Amended) A computer comprising:
a plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices supporting a first data transmission protocol; ~~protocol and not supporting a second data transmission protocol;~~
~~an interface in a gatekeeper module supporting both the~~ first data transmission protocol ~~and a first, and also the~~ second data transmission protocol, the gatekeeper ~~module~~ converting received data from the second data transmission protocol to the first data transmission protocol and forwarding converted data to one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices, wherein clients using the first data transmission protocol and clients using the second data transmission protocol can simultaneously use said one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices; and
a resource control device ~~which in cases in which a request cannot be processed by said one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices due to data traffic loading~~

~~thereof, evaluating a selected telephone and/or video conference device to make a determination that a request can no longer be processed by one of the telephone and/or video conference devices and causing~~ ~~causes~~ another of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices to take over the request after the resource control device makes the determination.
request;

~~wherein all conversion between the first and second protocols are performed in the gatekeeper for the plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices.~~

42. (Currently Amended) A data communications method for use in a data communications system comprising a plurality ~~number~~ of clients; a computer comprising a plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices supporting a first data transmission protocol, an interface device supporting both the first and also a second data transmission protocol; and a resource control device; ~~resource-control device;~~ the method comprising:

selecting one of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices by the resource control device ~~module~~ to execute a teleconference; ~~teleconference based on a communications load;~~

receiving data in the first data transmission protocol by the selected telephone and/or video conference data processing device;

converting data received in the second data transmission protocol to the first data transmission protocol by the interface device;

forwarding the converted data to the selected telephone and/or video conference data processing device; device, and

causing another of the telephone and/or video conference data processing devices to take over the teleconference after the resource control device determines that the selected telephone and/or video conference data processing device is overloaded or can no longer execute the teleconference or can no longer process data for the teleconference. wherein the teleconference can be used by clients using the first data transmission protocol and by clients using the second data transmission protocol; and

executing at least two different teleconferences simultaneously in two respective telephone and/or video conference data processing devices;

wherein all conversions between the first and second protocols are performed in the interface device for the plurality of telephone and/or video conference data processing devices.

43. (Currently Amended) The data communications method in accordance with claim 42, wherein the resource control device has at least one resource control module that selects from among the telephone and/or data processing devices in the computer and from among further telephone and/or data processing devices in an external network that is directly or indirectly connected to the computer to execute the teleconference based on a telecommunications load and a resource availability.

44. (New) The data communication system of claim 39 wherein the teleconference is a video teleconference or video conference.

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45. (New) The data communication system of claim 39 wherein the data conversion device is a gatekeeper or gatekeeper module.

46. (New) The data communication system of claim 39 wherein the at least one network is at least one Intranet data network.